

Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW)  
Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2023

Meeting agenda:

<https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/18656>

Drought Conditions Handout:

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2023/IDW\\_2023-06-08\\_Handout.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Water/Drought/2023/IDW_2023-06-08_Handout.pdf)

Meeting Video:

[https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/IDW\\_2023-07-06\\_Video.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/opm/IDW_2023-07-06_Video.mp4)

**Members and Agency Staff** (\* - denotes voting member):

DEEP: Doug Hoskins\*  
DEMHS: Doug Glowacki\*  
DoAg: Eileen Underwood\*  
DPH: Lori Mathieu\*, Ryan Tetreault  
OPM: Rebecca Dahl, Martin Heft\*, Justine Phillips-Gallucci, Bruce Wittchen  
PURA: Ally Ayotte, Jack Betkoski, Maria Szul\*

**Other State Agency Representatives**

CEQ: Paul Aresta, Nick Velseboer

**Federal Agency representatives:**

NWS/NOAA: Joe Dellicarpini  
USGS: John Mullaney

**Other participants:**

Julie Banks, Ethan Werstler

**1. Call to order & Seating of voting members**

Martin Heft called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and confirmed the quorum of agency representatives: DEEP – Doug Hoskins; DEMHS – Doug Glowacki; DoAg – Elaine Underwood; DPH – Lori Mathieu; OPM – Martin Heft; and PURA – Maria Szul.

**2. Minutes – May 4, 2023**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [6/8/2023](#) meeting minutes and the motion was approved unanimously.

**3. State Drought Coordinator Report**

a. Review of June monthly data and other relevant information

Becca Dahl described data through the end of June presented in the [drought conditions handout](#) and noted the significant July rainfall. She invited comments or questions and Doug Hoskins said stream flows look good and Elaine Underwood said topsoil moisture is adequate in most of the state. Lori Mathieu said many water companies' reservoir levels are declining and provided an overview of discussions regarding public water systems in Fairfield County.

John Mullaney said the state's real time wells are currently in the normal range, but pointed out that the statistics are based on data usually collected near the end of the month, a point when levels typically have declined this time of year. He added that the recent rain and high stream flows have led to just a bump in ground water trends and we'll have to see where that goes as stream flows drop.

Joe Dellicarpini described the potential for rain in Fairfield and Litchfield counties and added that warmer and wetter weather is favored through the end of July. Doug Glowacki added that the higher humidity and lack of wind are in our favor.

b. Vote on drought stage changes if warranted

Martin Heft explained the considerations for Stage 1 drought and said conditions do not appear to support Stage 2. Becca provided further background and Doug Glowacki said the 2-week precipitation outlook is generous and added that the hurricane outlook has been increased.

Lori Mathieu said CT is perpetually close to being in Stage 1 and asked if the group should meet sooner than next month to review how the data have changed by then. Bruce Wittchen suggested the group wait to meet again in a month as scheduled and Lori said they should meet sooner and added that DPH is watching reservoir levels.

Martin Heft said an additional meeting can be scheduled and canceled later if not needed or scheduled later. No motion was made to declare any drought stage and no decision was made to schedule an additional meeting in two weeks.

#### **4. Business**

a. Post-2022 Drought Actions

Becca Dahl outlined the work done by agency staff, which met most recently on 6/22. She described how the group intends to move forward and noted that meetings are scheduled through August.

b. [Drought Plan](#) Review

This was covered in 5a.

c. Other

There was no further discussion.

#### **5. Public comment**

There were no public comments.

**6. Next Meeting – August 3, 2023**

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:27.

DRAFT